



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 354 people in the Virginia from 2007 to 2011, according to the Virginia's Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS), and fire departments in Virginia responded to more than 143,750 home fires from 2007 to 2011; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half have actually practiced it; and

WHEREAS, one-third of Americans households who made one and estimate they thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Have Two Ways Out!" effectively serves to remind us to develop and practice a home fire escape plans during Fire Prevention Week and year-round;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize October 7-13, 2012 as **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens; and

FURTHERMORE, I urge all citizens to practice their home fire escape plan during **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Virginia's fire and emergency services.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth